

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A handle (2) for actuating a valve (1), comprising a fastening head (10) for fastening to a spindle (7) of the valve and an actuating arm (11) for rotatably actuating the spindle, the spindle (7) being arranged in a valve housing (5) so as to be rotatable about an axis of rotation of a sealing part, the actuating arm (11) being arranged to be movable perpendicularly to the axis of the spindle (7) from a closed position into an open position of the valve (1), wherein the actuating arm (11) has means (14) for preventing the actuation of the handle (2), wherein the fastening head (10) has a fastening means (21) for fastening the handle (2) to the valve spindle (7), and wherein the handle has a sealing plate (15) for sealing the fastening means (21), the sealing plate (15) is formed from a plastic material having substantially higher strength than the strength of the plastic material of the valve (1).

2. (currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the sealing plate (15) is formed from a first plastic material.

3. (original) The handle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the valve (1) is formed from a further plastic material.

4. (currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 1, 8 or 9, wherein the valve is designed as a ball valve (1).

5. (currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim ± 8 or 9, wherein the sealing plate (15) is formed from a plastic material having substantially higher strength than the strength of the plastic material of the valve (1).

6. (currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 1 or 8, wherein the sealing plate (15) has a first pair of catch projections (24) for catching in the handle (2).

7. (original) The handle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sealing plate (15) has a second pair of projections (25) which are suitably designed for fitting and removing the ball valve (1).

8. (new) A handle (2) for actuating a valve (1), comprising a fastening head (10) for fastening to a spindle (7) of the valve and an actuating arm (11) for rotatably actuating the spindle, the spindle (7) being arranged in a valve housing (5) so as to be rotatable about an axis of rotation of a sealing part, the actuating arm (11) being arranged to be movable perpendicularly to the axis of the spindle (7) from a closed position into an open position of the valve (1), wherein the actuating arm (11) has means (14) for preventing the actuation of the handle (2), wherein the fastening head (10) has a fastening means (21) for fastening the handle (2) to the valve spindle (7), and wherein the handle has a sealing plate (15) for sealing the fastening means (21), wherein the sealing plate (15) is formed from a first plastic material and the valve (1) is formed from a further plastic material.

9. (new) A handle (2) for actuating a valve (1), comprising a fastening head (10) for fastening to a spindle (7) of the valve and an actuating arm (11) for rotatably actuating the spindle, the spindle (7) being arranged in a valve housing (5) so as to be rotatable about an axis of rotation of a sealing part, the actuating arm (11) being arranged to be movable

perpendicularly to the axis of the spindle (7) from a closed position into an open position of the valve (1), wherein the actuating arm (11) has means (14) for preventing the actuation of the handle (2), wherein the fastening head (10) has a fastening means (21) for fastening the handle (2) to the valve spindle (7), and wherein the handle has a sealing plate (15) for sealing the fastening means (21), wherein the sealing plate (15) has a first pair of catch projections (24) for catching in the handle (2) and a second pair of projections (25) which are suitably designed for fitting and removing the ball valve (1).